

wounds entirely healed except one place about a half an inch in diameter.—*Med. and Surg. Reporter*, May 20, 1888.

JAMES E. PILCHER (U. S. Army).

II. Dislocation of the Head of the Fibula. By A. LEGGATT (London.) The patient whilst playing at football, slipped and fell with his left leg doubled up underneath him, so that as he described it, he, sat on his own foot. The pain was great, and at the time of the accident he felt something give way—the head of the fibula was found to be dislocated forwards, being plainly seen and felt beneath the skin—immediately behind and above the dislocated head of the fibula was a distinct hollow about one inch in diameter—the normal socket of the bone—the tendon of the biceps was very tense. The patient was removed to St. Thomas' Hospital with a view to the reduction of the bone under an anæsthetic. While the patient's boot was being taken off previously to the administration of ether he felt something give, and on examination the dislocated head was found less prominent. The reduction was effected by Mr. Battle, who in the early stage of the anæsthesia, held the leg semiflexed, having his right thumb on the front of the fibula below the head. While this was being done the patient kicked out, and thus brought the biceps into action, and the bone returned to its position with an audible snap. The leg was put up in plaster of Paris, which had to be removed in four days, to enable the patient to present himself for an examination; there was no effusion, and the appearance of the joint was quite normal—some remarks follow anent the rarity of the occurrence of the lesion.—*Lancet*, March 31, 1888.

H. HERCV DUNN (London.)

GENITO-URINARY ORGANS.

I. Stricture of the Rectum Following an Abscess of the Prostate. By DR. E. DESNOS. (Paris). The patient, a man, æt. 55, was admitted with an abscess in the perineum, to the left side, just behind the scrotum. After a free opening had been made, a probe was introduced and was found to go easily in a direction running along the left side of the median raphé. There was no burrowing towards

the rectum, and through its walls the fingers could not detect the end of the probe. The abscess was clearly connected with some trouble in the genito-urinary tract, and in that quarter was found a slight stricture of the bulbous portion of the urethra. An examination of the rectum by the finger revealed a thick band running all around the gut a short distance from the anus, and diminishing its calibre very markedly. The band was much more prominent on the anterior part and formed a semi-lunar valve. This was just at the base of the prostate, and when a search for this gland was made, no trace of it was to be found. There was some fibrous induration, but nothing to remind one of the bulging which usually accompanies the prostate of a man æt. 52 years. The man's history showed there had been an urethral discharge at the age of 20 years, which had been troublesome for two years and that symptoms of a stricture had been coming on of late years. But the most important fact was that two years ago he had noticed pus coming from the anus every time he defecated, and this was cured spontaneously after lasting two months. Subsequently he had been treated for an abscess in the right side of the perineum, which had left a fistulous tract, still to be seen.

This history showed that there had been a series of abscesses in the perineum and neighboring parts, and there could be little doubt that at one time suppuration had been going on in the prostate, or rather around it. No pus had ever been found in the urine, but it is well known that this can very well be the case. The pus had evidently been gradually let out, producing by its contact with the parts an induration and thickening. The glandular tissue of the prostate had been eliminated in the same way, and this explains why no trace of that organ was to be found.

The treatment adopted consisted in laying the whole tract freely open by means of the thermo-cautery, and exposing all the undermined parts. At the same time the stricture of the urethra was gradually dilated. No successful result however was obtained.—*Gazette Médicale de Paris*, Dec. 10, 1887.